

21,000

400

202

110

Econ 198

PRIME MINISTER

Prescription Charges

67  
40  
107

The proposed saving of £120 million in 1981/82 from raising prescription charges is made up as follows:

Increasing the charge to £1 in December 1980

£m 175  
29

Introducing a 50p charge for the following who are currently exempt:

(a) children under 16 (except for those on supplementary benefit and FIS) 21

(b) women over 60 and men over 65 (except for those on supplementary benefit) 39

(c) certain groups who are currently exempt for specified medical conditions 2½

18.75%

(d) expectant and nursing mothers 2½

(e) hospital outpatients 4

Dental charges - removing existing exemption for young people who have left school 9

Optical charges - £2 for a sight test (except for people on supplementary benefit and FIS who will continue to be exempt) 11

29  
24  
53

Thus, if we were to take out all the changes in exemptions, we would lose about £90 million out of the £120 million. Politically, I would have thought that the last three of the changes given above would be the easiest to defend. If we included these in the package but not the other four, the total saving would come to about £53 million.

DES.

81-82.

5-10.

11. 167.

We have ~~got~~ to get  
economics